



*Buddy² The Ne<sub>x</sub>t Generation*  
**Annual Report**  
November 1, 2003

**Buddy² Mission Statement**

*Buddy² develops and facilitates leading edge learning projects in K-12 school communities to increase student achievement using technology in anytime, anywhere settings. Buddy² initiatives aim to share best practices among educators, strengthen family involvement in education, and extend learning beyond the bounds of school time and place. Buddy² values and supports equal access to learning technologies regardless of socioeconomic realities.*

The *Buddy System Project* began in 1988 by providing home technology to 250 families in five school communities through a partnership of public and private institutions. The traditional *Buddy* (computer-at-home) project has since served over 30,000 Hoosier families since the project's inception.

*Buddy* has provided programming, special project facilitation and training services to more than 12,000 educators from all 92 Indiana counties through its grants, professional development center, outreach training programs and conferences.

In 2000, *Buddy* renewed its mission to focus on research & development programs that drive student academic achievement gains, renaming the project, "Buddy²: the Ne<sub>x</sub>t Generation."

*Buddy* still honors and recognizes schools and teachers who strive to implement teaching and learning programs that show visible evidence of our Buddy core values.

- Learning opportunities beyond classroom time and place;
- Technology as a tool to support learning goal achievement;
- Parent involvement in the education of their children;
- Equal access to technology resources for all students and teachers; and
- Reflective practice of teaching and learning for continuous improvement.

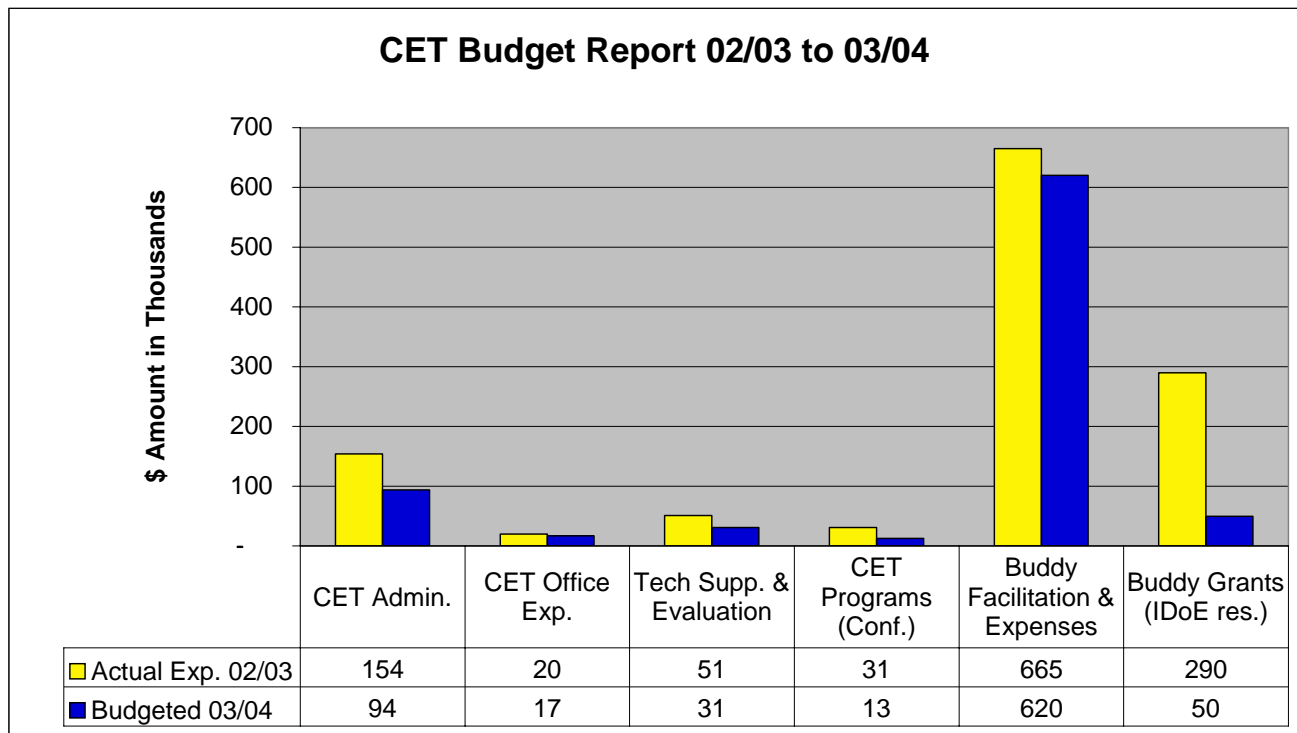
With a very lean budget over the past few years, we continue to strive for excellence in education, but have necessarily reduced services to our general membership in order to adequately support the ongoing *STAR* writing research and development program (See enclosed report).

We still have many schools who value membership with *Buddy* and continue to seek and provide local support for their local *Buddy* initiatives: So far this school year we have received member applications or renewals from 150 teachers in twenty-two schools. When funding is available, these school members may apply to CET for mini-grants to support innovative teaching practice and parent/family involvement programs. The rewards of membership include discounts on locally provided professional development, free family training facilitation, and regular publications of standards-based curriculum integration ideas. School and teacher members also receive certificates of recognition.

*Buddy* has maintained a training center since 1995. The current *Buddy Teaching and Learning Center* is co-located with Central Indiana Education Service Center at 6321 LaPas Trail in Indianapolis. We provide over 40 free courses throughout the school year, to which any Indiana school may send representatives. We also provide onsite training at Indiana schools over many of the same topics for a modest fee. Over 1,200 Indiana teachers received training through the BTLC and BTLC Outreach program during the 2002-2003 school year.

Many teachers, families and organizations from Indiana and beyond visit our award-winning website on a regular basis. Visit it a <http://www.buddyproject.org> to see the myriad of resources to support standards-based education at home and at school.

The CET budget as approved by the Indiana General Assembly was 1.5 million for 2002-2003. Due to the current fiscal crisis in Indiana, our actual funding allocation was reduced to \$1,195,000 for 2002-2003 fiscal year. *Buddy* was again allocated funding in the 2003 General Assembly, but our budget was further slashed to a total of \$825,000 for operational expenses in 2003-2004. A graph depicting the spread of funding among our major budget categories follows.



We are particularly disappointed in not having funds necessary to offer member schools (or future research and development partner schools) grants to support innovation in teaching and learning projects. The bulk of our funding will go to support and facilitate the final stages of the STAR writing research project as well as the professional development offered through the *Buddy Teaching and Learning Center*. We hope our continued efforts to support “best practice” in education will prove us worthy of a completely restored budget when economic recovery occurs.